



Citizen Corps Score

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A Monthly Publication for Indiana Citizen Corps Councils, their Partners and Affiliates

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Citizen Corps Score Returns!

After a brief break in publication, the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives is excited to announce the return of the Citizen Corps Score. This monthly newsletter will highlight local, state, and national events and possible funding opportunities for Citizen Corps councils and related programs. If you would like to receive the Citizen Corps Score or would like to know more about Citizen Corps in Indiana, please contact Christina Mauntel at cmauntel@ofbci.IN.gov.

Indiana helps with Hurricane Relief

The State of Indiana is now home to more than 3500 evacuees from the Gulf States as a result of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. The Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives is coordinating, along with the Department of Family and Social Services and the Indiana Housing and Finance Authority, services for the evacuees. Any evacuee who has not registered with the state of Indiana is urged to call 1-866-879-4631 or visit www.indianadisasterhelp.org.

Indiana CERT teams help with rescue in Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties

On November 6, 2005, Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties, in Southwest Indiana, experienced debilitating storms. A tornado touched down, which left twenty-two people dead and more than 700 homes damaged or destroyed. Thanks to training received through a grant from the federal Department of Homeland Security, Vanderburgh and Warrick counties both had Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) they could call on to assist with rescue efforts. In the early morning hours after the tornado hit, CERT teams were activated from Vanderburgh, Warrick and Spencer Counties and on the scene to assist authorities with search and rescue. Thanks to early training received, they were able to save lives.

Form a Citizen Corps Council in your area

The Citizen Corps' mission is to have all Americans to participate in homeland security training. Citizen Corps is a federally funded program which encourages innovation at the local level. Citizen Corps has five programs that it focuses on: Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), Neighborhood Watch (NW), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Fire Corps, and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). Citizen Corps Councils are formed at the local level which can assist in coordination of activities. Each council must be supported by a local jurisdiction such as county, city, town, or tribe. Councils and practices are unique to each area and partner with many different organizations. Local councils in Indiana are located in the following counties: Allen, DeKalb, Elkhart, Hendricks, Henry, Jennings, Johnson, LaGrange, LaPorte, Marion, Monroe, Noble, Porter, Posey, Scott, Seymour, Spencer, Stueben, St. Joseph, Tippecanoe, Vanderburgh, and Warrick. If you are interested in forming a Citizen Corps Council in your area please contact Christina Mauntel at cmauntel@ofbci.IN.gov or visit <http://www.citizencorps.gov/> for more information.

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VIPS~ Training Opportunity

Volunteers in Police Service will be having a training seminar at Hyatt Regency in Indianapolis on May 23, 2006. The one day training will cover how to introduce VIPS into your local area and how to implement the law enforcement program. For more information or to register to attend please visit http://www.policevolunteers.org/events/index.cfm?fuseaction=event_info&eventId=45.

CERT

The CERT website offers many resources for starting or maintaining your CERT program. The materials cover many best practice methods used by other CERT teams from across the United States. These materials are available at http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/CERT/new_CERT/index.htm. CERT training materials are also available in Spanish at <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/CERT/mtrls>.

MRC ~Getting Started

With onset of the flu season, medical staff volunteers are in high demand. If you are a medical professional and want to volunteer your services, why not sign up for Medical Reserve Corps? The Medical Reserve Corps website has information about who to contact to volunteer or information about starting a chapter in your area. Please visit <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov> on how to get started.

Literature Available About Citizen Corps

The Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives has booklets available about preparing for disasters and guide to starting a Citizen Corps Council in your area. If you would like to receive *Citizen Corps: A Guide for Local Officials* or *Are You Ready: A Guide to Citizen Preparedness* please contact the OFBCI at 317-233-4273 or cmauntel@ofbciln.gov.

Local Updates

Allen County has begun to implement strategies in the event avian flu would hit Indiana. The Allen County MRC, along with its partners, is taking the lead in educating the public in what to do in the event of infection and a drill is in the planning stages for health care workers on best practices for inoculation. In September, **Elkhart County** held its second annual Health Fair. Twenty-one booths were present and educated the public on disaster preparedness. **Monroe County** has been very active in assisting with hurricane relief. Over fifty families relocated to Bloomington area from the Gulf States as a result of Hurricane Katrina. The Monroe County Citizen Corps Council and its partners assisted the evacuees in settling into their new homes.

Tips of the Month ~ Steps to avoid the Flu

The flu season is now here and everyone is concerned about staying healthy. Here are some tips to avoid getting the flu.

- Get vaccinated! Person especially the between the ages of 6 months and 18 years and those over the age of 65.
- Avoid contact with those who have the flu.
- Wash hands frequently.
- Avoid touching eyes and mouth.

For more information about preventing the spread of influenza and more detail on those who should be vaccinated please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/preventing.htm>.